of 3,700 kilometres. *(Interruptions)* . . . I don't have the- U.S. figure. I have the figure of U.K. I have the figure of France. France is charging 7,132 dollars. *(Interruptions)* . . .

श्रीमती सत्य बहिन : मैडम, ये पक्का व्यवसाय कर रहे है . . . (व्यवधान)

श्री अजीत जोगी : बी०जे०पी० के 12 बजे। एकदम 12 बजे आए है . . . (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : अपने नहीं तुम्हारे 12 बजा के आए है . . . (व्यवधान)

106. *[The questioner (Shri Pasumpon Tha Kiruttinan) was absent. For answer Vide Col. . . . infra.]*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Question NOi 107. *(Interruptions)* .. . Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS

Restoration of Admissible portion of Pension to Govt; Servants Absorbed in Public Enterprises

@*106. SHRI PASUMPON THAKIRUTTINAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the action taken by Government on the appeal dated' 30th March, 1993 submitted, to him by, the Welfare Association of. Absorbed Central Government Employees in Public Enterprises regarding the restoration of admissible portion of pension to Government servants absorbed in public sector undertakings, in the light of the orders dated 3rd February, 1993, passed by the Supreme Court of India on Writ Petition (Civil) No. 11855/85 filed by the said association ;

(b) if no action has so far been taken on the appeal, what are the reasons therefor ; and

(c) by when a decision in the matter is' likely to be taken by Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI " MARGARET ALVA) ; (a) Government has considered in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court of 3rd February 1993 in Writ Petition (Civil) No. 11855/85 the matter raised in the Appeal dated 30-3-1993 from the Welfare Association of Absorbed Central Government Employees, in Public Enterprises. It has been decided that the benefit of restoration of commuted: value of pension, whether the whole or l/3rd portion, was not admissible to the, petitionees. The General Secretary of. the Welfare Association was apprised of the Governments decision by a letter dated 15th July, 1993.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Operation of private airlines in the country

*107. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that private airline's are operating in the country;

(b) if so, the number of private airlines permitted to Operate in the country ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the Act under which the operation of private airlines is permitted, has been amended ; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that private airlines operators are not being provided the required facilities by the Airport Authority, and, if so, what steps Government are taking ito provide the required facilities to private airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD);: (a) and (b) At present, 17 operators hold Air Taxi Operators' Permit.

@ Previously, Starred Question No. 66, transferred from the December, 1993.

(c) Air Taxi operations are permitted under AIC No; 24 of 1990 iseuad by the Director General of Civil Aviation, as amended from time to 'time.

(d) Subject to constraints of space, air taxi operators are being provided facilities like counter space, office space, parking, maintenance and other related facilities. It will take some time to provide adequate hanger facilities to meet semands fully.

Product' divercefication envisaged by Scooters India Limited

*108. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
PROF. SAURIN BHATTA-CHARYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of product diversification programme envisaged by the Scooters India Limited for making the company a profitable one ;

(b) whether the company has not initiated' any new technological changes;

(c) whethers, some foreign companies have agreed to offten their services for the diversification programme with financial assistance-;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e)what further steps are being taken to enable the company to change its product ranges?

MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPART MENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-MENT) *mm* THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUS TRY (DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (e), Scooters, India Limitec (SIL) has been referred to Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstructior (BIFR) which is examining the long-tenr viablitey of Sll! Further steps would depend on the final recommendation of BIFR,

Post-Earthquake Tremors in Maharashtra

*169. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA ;
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAM-BHAIIRAO SHINDE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a number of tremors have taken place after the devastating earthquake in Maharashtra ;

(b) whether any study has been made in the matter ; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTERS OFFICE AND THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEBI): (a) Yes Sir, After the occurence of the Main earthquake on September 30, 1993, with epicentre close to Latur in Maharashtra, aftershok activity started and is still continuing. Earthquakes ;if magnitude of around 5 and above generally, give rise to aftershock sequence. Till December 1, 1993 a total of 116 aftershocks have been recorded their magnitude range being between 1.0 to 5.2 on Richter scale.

(b) and (c) Yes Sir, India Meteorological Department established five temporary Seismic field stations in the earthquake affeeted area to monitor aftershock activity. A few other organisations also set up temporary observatories. Most of these aftershocks have epicentres in a narrow zone of about 908 sq. km. and mean radius of 17 km. from the main earquafce. The aftershock area are is bounded by Latitude 17°—8' to 18""°— 2"N and longitude 76 °- 4' to 78 °— 7' in the Ausa and Nilanga Tehsils of Latur district and Umarga Tehsil of Osmanabad district. There appears to be no clear evidence of trend' of migration of these epicentres i» any particular direction. The aftershock area consists a total rock mass valuing